



## Division of Developmental Disabilities

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Division of Developmental Disabilities

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### Special points of interest:

- 23,089 individuals are served by the Division.
- This is your newsletter!
- Avoid acronyms for clarity.

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# On-line News

Division of Developmental Disabilities

July 2004 Issue



## New On-line Issue

By Editor

Welcome to the on-line version of the Division's newsletter. This newsletter and its hard copy counter part, the *Update Newsletter*, are meant to be a useful and informative resource for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, Division staff, service providers, advocates and interested parties. Your comments, ideas and requests for articles are encouraged so that you as readers and the Division can share and tap into collective talents, experiences and resources. With your support, the newsletter format can be one more way to better serve individuals with developmental disabilities.

Our email address is [dddnewsletter@azdes.gov](mailto:dddnewsletter@azdes.gov) or call Betty Waldrip, Editor, at 602-542-6809 or toll-free at 866-229-5553.

## Employment Supports and Services

By Dianne Wagemann, Director of Policy, Planning and Special Projects

Persons with developmental disabilities should have quality work opportunities available which enable them to choose from a variety of employers and experiences for their work lives in the community. This is the vision of the Employment Supports and Services System Design Workgroup. The Workgroup's members through discussions, deliberations, negotiations and recommendations are developing Guiding Principles for Core Employment Services, Evaluation Considerations for the initiation of employment supports and services and Structural Design of Center-Based, Group-Supported, Individual-Supported Employment Services. The Workgroup began the Employment Supports and Services System Design development on March 16, 2004 and completed their first set of recommendations on June 29, 2004.

The Workgroup's members come from

both urban and rural areas of the state. Members include Family Members and Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Association for Persons in Supported Employment, Employment Service Providers, Staff of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Staff of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Staff of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Staff of the Department of Education - Exceptional Student Services, Staff of the Department of Health Services - Division of Behavioral Health Services, Staff of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Administration, Support Coordination and Employment Programs and the Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University.

New rates and a model should be established by January 1, 2005.

### Division of Developmental Disabilities

Articles submitted by Dianne Wagemann, Director of Policy, Planning and Special Projects. For more information or comments contact Betty Waldrip, Editor at 602-542-6809, toll-free 866-229-5553 or email [dddnewsletter@azdes.gov](mailto:dddnewsletter@azdes.gov)

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"We make a living by  
 what we get,  
 we make a life by what  
 we give."

*Sir Winston Churchill  
 (1874-1965)*

## Co-Ops - Member-Owned Human Service Cooperatives

By Dianne Wagemann, Director of Policy, Planning and Special Projects

Determining how services and supports will be provided through a member-owned human service cooperative is now available for Arizona individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) awarded the Division a three-year grant totaling \$600,000 to develop, study and evaluate the efficacy of human service co-operatives. The grant will help people with disabilities reside in their homes and participate fully in community life while

giving more choice and oversight to the delivery of supports, caregiver training and hiring, program management, etc. Currently a small group of families in northern Arizona have established a cooperative and there are other groups in the state expressing interest. The Division in partnership with University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Bohling, Inc. and ResCare will provide the supports, management and evaluation of the co-operatives. More participants are needed. If you are interested please, contact Dianne Wagemann, Division of Develop-

### ¿ESPAÑOL SOLAMENTE?

¿Usted o alguien a quien usted conoce lee solamente español? Llame al 602-542-0419 o 866-229-5553 para que le incluyan en la lista de personas que reciben la traducción al español de este boletín. Gracias.

## Facts About the Division

As of May 31, 2004, the Division serves over 23,089 children and adults with developmental disabilities in Arizona. The eligibility requirements as set forth in Arizona Statute require an individual of six years of age or older to have a diagnosis of mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism or epilepsy with major functional impairments to be eligible for services from the Division. Prior to six years of age, an "At Risk of a developmental disability" diagnosis is given, but at the age of six, the child must have one of the above four diagnoses and significant life impairments to continue to receive supports from the Division.

Of these 23,089 persons, 15,751 persons are eligible to receive federal Title 19 Medicaid Services funded through the Arizona Long Term Care Program

(ALTCS). ALTCS is administered by the Division as a subcontractor of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) which is the state Medicaid agency. The remaining population of 7,338 persons has services funded through an appropriation of state dollars.

The Arizona system is community based. Of the total individuals served by the Division, 19,331 reside in their own home, 401 reside in individually/personally designed living settings and 684 reside in adult or child developmental homes. There are 2,130 individuals who reside in group homes, 206 reside in intermediate care facilities (state operated and private) and 337 reside in other supported settings.



### Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. This document is available in alternative formats by contacting: 602-542-6825